22 January 1980

Dear Harold:

Only this morning was I able to get anything from the Berkeley police about the Moonies there, and in the meantime yours of the 16th arrived yesterday saying that Maios had switched signals. I had to work all day at Hospice of Marin, and only now am getting around to telling you what little I learned from the police.

Before I get into that, let me say that it's my distinct impression that it's illegal to operate a car in California without a certain amount of liability insurance. This is only a general impression, however, and I hope to reach someone tomorrow who can supply some specifics. I'll let you know.

The officer I was trying to reach in Berkeley has been ill, and I got through to him only a couple of days ago. He said the Moonies seem to be less aggressive about their sales and evangelistic efforts, but otherwise operate as usual. He confirmed my impression that since young Maio presumably has no police record they are not in a position to do anything about him. He suggested I call a police inspector who has more direct knowledge of the Moonies, but cautioned that the inspector is tied up in testimony at an important local trial and if reachable at all this would be only very early in the morning. Accordingly I reached the inspector at 7:30 this morning, and while courteous he basically told me no more than the other officer had, although there was no difference in their versions. He did say that there is a counselling service available which offers to help reunite families disrupted by cults such as the Moonies and which disavows any approval of the kidnaping techniques often used by such agencies that go in for "debriefing" converts and returning them to their families. I have the name and address of this outfit but naturally assume the Maios would regard it as a last resort, if that. This counselling service is not in Berkeley, but in Burlingame, near the airport.

It seems to me that for the time being, at least, the Maios are wise to calm down and try to let things work themselves out. Especially if the young man now has a girl who is newly arrived in this country. I feel that Chinese common sense is the remedy here if it can be mobilized, and that the Maios are giving it a chance to assert itself. But I agree with you that the car situation doesn't look good, and will let you know what I find out about the legal situation as soon as possible. Thus far I haven't been able to inquire during office hours, but should be able to tomorrow. (We're in the process of moving offices at Hospice, and the confusion is about what you'd expect.)(Phones disrupted, etc.)

Here's hoping Lil's eye problem clears up and that the winter continues to treat you both gently.

More later, and all the best,

Jim

jdw